WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Betel Vines

757. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of betel vines have been destroyed due to cyclone in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to pay compensation and assistance to betel growers in that State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. A report of damage to betelvine due to cyclone in Orissa during October, 1999 was received.

(b) and (c) An assistance of Rs. 500 crores from National Fund for Calamity Relief was released for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in all sectors including horticulture which covers betelvine crop.

Incentives for cash crops

758. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives given/likely to be given for the production of cash crops in Kerala and other parts of the country in the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(b) the position of Kerala in the production of cash crops in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) In order to increase the production of Cotton, Sugarcane, Jute/Mesta in various States, three Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz., Intensive Cotton Development Programme, (ICDP-Cotton), Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP) and Sustainable Development